

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 1, 2005

DC UNVEILS NEW HOMICIDE REDUCTION STRATEGY

Mayor Williams this week joined Chief Ramsey, US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein, and other local, federal and community leaders in releasing a comprehensive new homicide reduction strategy for DC. Project Safe Neighborhoods includes five major elements: suppression, deterrence, intervention, investigation and prosecution. It relies on close partnerships among police, prosecutors, probation and parole officials, and other criminal justice partners – at the local and federal levels. Under the strategy, law enforcement partners commit to a regular schedule of identifying a troubled neighborhood, targeting its violent offenders, assigning a federal agency to undertake investigations with the MPDC, and then conducting a “take-down” involving the arrest of those violent offenders. What’s unique about the strategy is that officials then “market” the take-downs conducted in one neighborhood to known offenders and their associates in other neighborhoods, as a way to deter those individuals from committing further violence. The announcement of the strategy was held in the Sursum Corda community, a designated “hot spot” and the site of the first wave of take-downs last year. That was followed in January by a “call-in” of individuals under supervised release, primarily in the 6th and 7th Police Districts. Similar waves of “take-downs” and “call-ins” are being conducted in other parts of DC.

① Read the complete Homicide Reduction Strategy (in PDF) at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/publications/researchreports/HomicideReductionStrategy-USA0.pdf>

① Another element of the strategy involves a new anti-violence public information campaign that encourages residents to report illegal guns. The campaign includes Metro bus ads, posters and “palm cards” listing anti-violence resources. For more information, contact:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/>

CRIME IN MARCH DECLINES 14 PERCENT; DOWN 16 PERCENT DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 2005

Reported crime in DC declined by 14 percent in March, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC, contributing to a 16 percent reduction during the first quarter of 2005. Overall, there were 2,352 serious crimes reported in March 2005, compared with 2,724 in March of 2004. Property crime dropped 16 percent during the month, driven by sharp reductions in stolen autos and burglaries. Thefts from autos, however, did increase 11 percent last month. Among violent crimes, sexual assaults and assaults with a deadly weapon (ADW) fell, while robberies increased 4 percent and homicides rose from 16 in March 2004 to 22 in March 2005. So far this year, all major crime categories except ADW have declined, according to the preliminary data (reported ADWs are up by less than 1 percent). For the first quarter of the year, violent crime was down 7 percent, including a 27 percent drop in sexual assaults and an 11 percent reduction in robberies. The number of reported property crimes declined 18 percent during the quarter, driven by a 31 percent drop in stolen autos and a 19 percent reduction in burglaries. The preliminary statistics show that serious crime was down in all seven police districts during the first quarter of 2005.

① View preliminary crime statistics, for each police district and the District as a whole, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① With a slight increase in robberies last month, residents are reminded of some steps they can take to protect themselves and prevent street crimes:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547781,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp

REWARD INCREASED FOLLOWING SHOOTING OF 9 YEAR OLD IN NW

Convinced that somebody knows the identity of the person who shot and critically wounded a 9-year-old boy last month on 13th Street, NW, Chief Ramsey this week announced that the MPDC is taking the unusual step of offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction. At approximately 9:45 pm on Thursday, March 24, 9-year-old Donte Manning was playing with a group of other children in front of an apartment complex located at 2620 13th Street, NW. It was at this time that a subject standing on the corner of 13th and Euclid Street, NW, began firing a handgun up 13th Street, striking the boy in the face. Donte was admitted to an area hospital, where he remains in very critical condition. Chief Ramsey originally raised the reward for information in this case from the standard \$1,000 to an enhanced reward of up to \$10,000. Disappointed that this and other efforts did not generate more useful leads, the Chief decided to increase the reward amount again, to up to \$25,000. The MPDC has been distributing flyers and conducting other community and media outreach in an effort to generate tips that will lead to an arrest and conviction in this senseless crime. Individuals with information are asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099.

AS SPRING ARRIVES, MPDC WARNS RESIDENTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

Warmer springtime temperatures are beginning to find their way to DC. And while spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other plants, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles this time of year are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any “something-for-nothing” offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to “cash-only” deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey this Week. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails on two media programs this week: “News Talk,” from 4-5 pm, on Wednesday, April 6, on News Channel 8; and “Ask the Chief,” from 10-11 am, on Thursday, April 7, on WTOP radio. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1245,q,548950.asp>

5D Auto Theft Prevention Day. The MPDC’s Fifth District, in conjunction with insurance and theft prevention industry representatives, is holding an Auto Theft Prevention Day on Saturday, April 9, from 12 noon to 2:30 pm, at the 5D Station, 1805 Bladensburg Road, NE. In addition to receiving safety tips, residents can purchase certain anti-theft devices at cost and enroll in the “Watch Your Car” program. For details, call Lt. Vincent Turner at (202) 727-4478.

MPDC Website Update. The MPDC has migrated its website to a new database-driven platform that is consistent with the rest of the DC.GOV site. The web address (www.mpdc.dc.gov) and look-and-feel of the site remain that same. But if you have bookmarked individual pages on the MPDC site, you may need to update your “favorites.” Also, if you notice any dead links or other problems with the upgraded site, please email: kaylin.junge@dc.gov.

① Read the news release on this case at: <http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3129>

① For more information about “Most Wanted” suspects and the DC Crime Solvers program, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,544785,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp

① For more information about con games and swindles, click on: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543147,mpdcNav_GID,1548.asp

① If your community organization is interested in a presentation on con games and swindles – or on any other crime prevention topic – contact the MPDC’s Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

DATA BOX

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Homicides | as of 4/1/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 44 | |
| ◆ 2004: 46 | |
| ◆ % Change: -4.3% | |
| ◆ Closure Rate: 54.5% (24 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 3/26/05 |
| ◆ Total: 979 | |
| ◆ Drugs: 194 | |
| ◆ Weapons: 43 | |
| ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 20 | |
| ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 3/26/05 |
| ◆ Arrests: 70 | |
| ◆ Curfew Violators: 138 | |
| ◆ Truants: 58 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 3/30/05 |
| ◆ March: 150 | |
| ◆ February: 311 | |
| ◆ 2005 Total: 688 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 4/1/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 13 | |
| ◆ 2004: 14 | |
| ◆ % Change: -7.1% | |

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov